

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A precision polishing element polishes a general surface, such as an aspheric optical surface. A compliant polishing member is mounted to a substantially rigid support member. The compliant polishing member has

5 plurality of spaced compliant polishing portions for engaging the surface to be polished and trapping polishing fluid between the interface of the surface to be polished and nearest polishing portion in contact with the surface. An important advantage derived from the polishing element of the invention is that it enables the polishing fluid to evenly distribute across the surface to be polished.